

AUG 28 1956

Approved For Release 2004/06/23 : CIA-RDP58-00597A000200140038-6

Reds Admit Polk Murder, Greeks Say

Repatriates Back
From Russia Tell
About U.S. Reporter

ATHENS, Aug. 27 (AP)—Two Greek former Communists have come back from the Soviet Union with the story that two compatriots there told them they killed the American newsman, George Polk.

Polk, 34, a native of Fort Worth, Tex., was a correspondent for the Columbia Broadcasting System. He was found shot through the head in Salonika Bay May 16, 1948. He had disappeared eight days before while trying to reach Markos Vassilades, Greek Communist guerrilla leader, for an interview.

Polk worked in Washington as a member of the New York Herald Tribune Bureau.

The two ex-Communists, sailors John Tsiros and Constantine Dimitriou, were repatriated from the Soviet Union last month after seven years there. They held a news conference Friday for Greek newsmen only. Their story now is in print in Greek newspapers.

They said two Greek Communists bearing the party aliases of Doulevetas and Masavetas told them they killed Polk in Salonika "at instruction of the Greek Communist Party so the Greek government would be implicated internationally." They did not give the men's real names.

Grigory Staktopoulos, leftist Greek journalist, is serving a life term as a convicted accessory in Polk's murder. He was sentenced March 31, 1949. Two Communist guerrillas, Evangelos Vasiliadis and Adam Mousoulides, were convicted in absence of murder and sentenced to death. Their whereabouts are not known.

Approved For Release 2004/06/23 : CIA-RDP58-00597A000200140038-6